

Testimony of
Hospice Southeastern Connecticut
Before the Legislature's Public Health Committee
10:00 AM, Friday March 16, 2012
Room 1D, Legislative Office Building Hartford, Connecticut

My name is Naomi Nomizu, MD. I am the Medical Director for Hospice Southeastern Connecticut. **I am submitting testimony in support of House Bill 5499 (Raised) An Act Concerning Regulations Relating to Hospice Care.**

I am currently employed by WW Backus Hospital in Norwich, Ct as a hospitalist. Prior to my employment at Backus I was in private practice in New London and also a medical director in a skilled nursing facility and an attending physician in several others. It has come to my attention that one of the issues reported concerning the proposed regulations, **Hospice Facility Regulations 19a-122b-1 to 19a-122b-14**, is that there is not an "in house pharmacy." In southeastern CT the skilled nursing facilities do not have an "in house pharmacy" and that has not posed a problem. The patients have their own medications delivered directly to the facility and there is an emergency supply of medication on site.

Our proposed hospice facility would follow the same protocols. In addition there would be a contract with a local pharmacy available 24hr/day as well as an arrangement with our local hospitals to provide any emergency medications not available in the facility.

This is not an issue that should be of any concern.

I strongly urge you to support **HB 5499**. These regulations are desperately needed to allow terminally ill patients **access** to all levels of hospice care in their communities.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at nanomizu@wwbh.org.